Dublin, 11th of September, 97

My dear friend - I dare take you to leave Boston without a word of greeting from me, & of thanks for the kind letter that came to hand yesterday - and for which I am specially obliged, knowing how full and how pleasantly occupied your time was there in that pleasant home, with the delightful "Father & Daughter", so good, so kind, so frail, so affectionate, so strong, so energetic, so hospitable, so unaffected, unselfish, and attached to one another that I never saw the like before. It is a real privilege to be favorably known to such people - and it was with a feeling of surprise that I received the kindness to me, having no claim on them except a common interest in the one object. This interest has on my part been an almost unmixed advantage - for if I lost any thing in the eagerness of my zeal I gained much more - and the friendships and emotions it has won for me I value with a great appreciation. In my recent visit I was exceedingly impressed with the beauty of character of our host and his daughter - and I could not but often think with shrinking that he is old and both are so fragile - and that the loss of either would be a terrible calamity to the other - and a more than common loss to their neighbors & ~~[illegible]~~ friends.

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Miss Edith is a perfect casket of moral excellence and great gifts. It feels odd that they, whom 6 years ago I did not know, should now be more interesting & more beloved & valued by me by far than all the other people I knew before in England. I have a holiday feeling connected with Bristol — and these letters & intercourse with them are a perfect treasure to me — so that my heart flies open when I am with them in presence or in spirit.

I am glad Emma is pleased with the books, which indeed are such copies as could not be readily met with. I might have hunted Dublin in vain for the like. They are the only editions of the respective works. "The Fate of Kathleen" embodies one of the most romantic Irish legends, and contains in musical verse some of the most lovely localities in the beautiful county of Wicklow which is remarkable for many spots of great natural beauty & antiquarian interest. I hope to have the pleasure of showing you some of those places when you come.

I said nothing to you of my wife's proposal that you & Mrs Chapman should come to help Geo. Thompson. I did not like to run the risk of losing the chance of the real visit when you could conveniently come — and at a needless expense to you. And moreover it is not you did not come — since as it happened S. T. was

prevented from coming. It so happened too that owing to the absence of Rob and Allen & James Naughton & families from Dublin at this season, if you had all come, you could not have had so much enjoyment as you will have when you do come — and this lovely weather is unfavorable for enjoying Keery's mountains & lakes or for understanding the aspect of the country. Our house is as large, as airy, & as good a house as Mr Litton's — but it is not nearly so nicely furnished & you will often have to take the will for the deed in matters of luxury and show. We have not yet, nor are we likely to enjoy so much of the worldly goods as your present hosts — I have never been a very devoted or vehement man of business — If I had been, I would probably have been known to you. I take comfort for the want of all the money I might have accumulated, from the consideration suggested by Mrs Barbauld's Essay that it shivered me.

I took a step yesterday that fell heavily in resigning formally my membership in the Society of Friends. I have for years been a hearer & have attended meetings so very seldom that they ought to have remonstrated with me & disowned me. But they did neither — so that for decency's sake I was compelled to resign. It did not do to be

looked upon as something utterly different from the reality, and to be called a Quaker when I was no such thing. I have an old regard for the society and my heart rather warms to the dear. I respect much in the society, and would be glad they would continue to feel as kindly to me as I do to them. I think some of the best sample of christian are to be found in Ireland. My resignation was based on the difference of my views from those of Friends, and an attachment to unshackled freedom of opinion which no sect could admit of, & continue to exist. You seted some lines about the old prim meeting house & its power over her feelings touched a responsive chord in my own mind. Unless they turn bitter against me I shall always have a leaning towards them.

How I would have liked the days at Cadbury Camp - and at Clevedon - and how I like the open faces of the Misses Parker's. I have no hope for those at home unless with their bondage to "the letter." Thank you for all your adventures. It was my knowledge of my own weakness in the teeth of such ~~temptation~~ temptation that induced me to carry off my luggage on Sunday morning. You can't have an idea of my willingness to be persuaded to stay. It was better I came away - for now I am in the middle of between that could not

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has not done in my absence. I wish I could make out something for the Liberty Bell but I hate to see any thing in its pages that I do not think whole to do credit to the cause or the editor. If in my loss for the Liberty Bell that has held my hand back from the table of contents, where I would greatly like to see it — for you will know how very fond I am of very good company.

Hoping to hear from Emma when she is settled — some time or other — in the country — Yours ever truly

Rich D Webb

Will your address in London be 29, Devonshire St — as before

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